

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CONNOLLY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Connolly for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Matthew Connolly is the president of his own green builder company, Generation Green Builders Company, and resides in the Beaverdale neighborhood of Des Moines with his wife Jodi and their two children, Malaya Rose and Lane Matthew. Mr. Connolly's path to being a successful businessman and family man was anything but easy and required overcoming a serious mental illness, schizophrenia. Matt credits his ability to maintain his recovery since 2004 on five pillars of recovery—medication, therapy, social worker support, family and friends, and support groups. Today, Mr. Connolly is running his own company and serving as an advocate for mental illness awareness. Matt's ability to not only survive, but thrive, amidst his mental illness is a testament to his unwavering work ethic and commitment to bettering himself and those around him.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Connolly for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matthew on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING CASIMIR PULASKI DAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Polish and American freedom fighter Casimir Pulaski. In my home state of Illinois, we celebrate Casimir Pulaski Day,

which is observed on the first Monday of March.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, on March 6, 1745, Casimir Pulaski was a skilled commander who fought against Russian forces in Poland. Based upon his work fighting for freedom in Poland, Pulaski was recruited by Benjamin Franklin to join in the American Revolution. In his first correspondence to George Washington, Pulaski famously wrote, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." In his first battle of the Revolution, the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, Pulaski helped alter the course of history by rallying a counterattack against advancing British forces that afforded Washington and countless American troops the time needed to successfully retreat. As a result, Washington promoted Pulaski to brigadier general of the American cavalry.

His influence on American independence did not end there. Pulaski introduced some modern military tactics to the American revolutionaries and led troops in numerous battles and sieges up and down the eastern seaboard. He organized the Continental Army's first successful cavalry unit, often using his own money to finance equipment for his men.

On October 9, 1779, during the Battle of Savannah, Pulaski was struck by grapeshot while attempting to lead a secondary charge against the entrenched British. He was taken aboard the USS *Wasp* and died from his wounds two days later. On October 15, he was buried at sea. Today Pulaski is remembered as the father of the American cavalry and one of the heroes of the American Revolution. He has been memorialized across America, through the naming of towns, counties, roads, and other landmarks.

In 2009, on the 230th anniversary of his death, Congress honored Pulaski posthumously as an honorary citizen of the United States, marking only the seventh time in American history that an individual has been granted such an honor.

This past Saturday, I joined the Polish Highlanders Alliance at their headquarters in Chicago's Archer Heights community to celebrate Pulaski Day. In my address to the group gathered to remember Casimir Pulaski, I praised the long friendship between the United States and Poland, and pledged my continued support for bringing Poland into the Visa Waiver Program.

Today, I ask all Americans to remember a true Polish and American hero who devoted and ultimately sacrificed his life to the pursuit of freedom.

HONORING NANCY ANN DANIEL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. COSTA, to honor

Nancy Ann Daniel, of Mendota, California. For years, she served as a tireless advocate and leader in California's San Joaquin Valley. Mrs. Daniel passed away on February 4, 2013 after decades of service to our Valley's most vulnerable citizens. She will be sorely missed.

Nancy and her husband, David, were labor contractors who specialized in cantaloupe harvesting. Using their own resources, they founded the Westside Youth Center in 1977 as a local boxing club for Mendota's at-risk youth. Over the years, the center added computers to help students with homework, a football team, and provided a safe place where children could spend afternoons and weekends with positive role models.

Through her leadership and financial stewardship, Nancy was able to ensure that the services at the Westside Youth Center remained free of charge. Due to the economic downturn impacting many in the community, the Westside Youth Center has become an absolutely integral part of our Valley.

The many lives that have been impacted by the Westside Youth Center will ensure that Nancy's legacy lives on for years to come. Her passion and dedication to her community provided an excellent example to the Mendota community. She will be remembered for her smile and her constant positive and upbeat attitude.

Mrs. Daniel was humble in her commitment and dedication to the City of Mendota. She once reflected, "You can't help them all, but it makes a big difference when you help a couple." Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Mr. COSTA in remembering Mrs. Nancy Ann Daniel for her invaluable service to the San Joaquin Valley.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW HARRIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Harris for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Matthew Harris is an Iowa native and alumnus of the University of Northern Iowa. In March of 2011, Matthew was appointed Administrator of the Iowa Arts Council, a division

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Professionally, Harris is charged with leading the state arts agency's staff, grant-making initiatives and programming while helping advance the agency's mission of enriching the quality of life in Iowa through support of the arts. Outside of work, Matthew is heavily involved with the Character Counts in Iowa program and the Les Hale Endowment Fund. In both facets of his life, Matt is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Harris for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matthew on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleague, Representative DAVID VALADAO, to pay tribute to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Armenians have suffered some of the worst savagery of recent history, from the massacre of more than a million people in the Armenian Genocide, to the cruel repression of Soviet rule, to Azerbaijan's war against Nagorno Karabakh and the ongoing siege of that region. Through these trials and tribulations, the Armenian people have paid a steep price for their freedom. The hero's welcome Azerbaijan recently afforded to Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani military officer who murdered a sleeping Armenian officer during a NATO-sponsored program in Hungary, is a stark reminder of the unrelenting hostility Armenians face today.

In this year, which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of another anti-Armenian atrocity—the Sumgait pogroms—we pay homage to the Armenian people and particularly the people of Nagorno Karabakh, who bravely struggle to maintain their right to self-determination.

COMMEMORATING THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Epilepsy Foundation and two remarkable constituents of New York's 19th Congressional District. Recently, Fiona Carroll of Averill Park and Angelina Dutcher of Glasco had the distinction of being named Northeastern New York's Winning Kids of 2013. This is a noteworthy accomplishment and shows their dedication to fighting epilepsy.

Every year, the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York names two individuals

to represent all of the children throughout our region who suffer from epilepsy. Through this designation, Fiona and Angelina will attend special events and fundraisers to raise awareness of and to fight this terrible disorder. Additionally, both will receive a scholarship to the summer camp of their choosing.

These two young ladies are incredible individuals and should serve as role models for us all. Fiona is an avid recreationalist and nature enthusiast. She also participates in the Girl Scouts of America, the Averill Park Youth Soccer League travel team, and uses her spare time to try to help others who are less fortunate, including recently cutting and donating her hair to the charity Locks of Love. Angelina is also an unbelievably driven and hard-working individual. She plays various sports and trains in martial arts while attending the 4th grade at the Windham-Ashland-Jewett School.

I am very proud to have such extraordinary individuals as constituents of the 19th Congressional District. Congratulations Angelina and Fiona. I look forward to working with you both and the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York to combat epilepsy.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Curtis Brown for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Curtis Brown lives in Ankeny, Iowa with his wife Rachel and sons Maximilian, Adrian Benet, and Jude, and serves as Economic Development Director for the city. Professionally, Curtis serves the people of Ankeny by building relationships with business leaders and economic development leaders. Privately, Mr. Brown is an active member of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception Church and volunteers as a Spanish interpreter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa. Both personally and professionally, Curtis is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Curtis in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Brown for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Curtis on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING LARRY DOBKIN AND
"TUNED IN: THE LARRY DOBKIN
MUSIC SHOWCASE"

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Larry Dobkin. The world sometimes has a cruel way of taking the best among us, and Larry was one of the best. In September, he succumbed after a noble battle with cancer. He left behind a wife, Nanci and three kids, Alex, Carlie and Sydnie. But Larry's loss was felt far beyond his immediate family. That was Larry's gift—we all felt like family.

Perhaps never have I met another person so fiercely loyal, devoted and loving. If you were a friend—and Larry considered pretty much everyone a friend—then Larry would work himself to exhaustion for you. He made a recruiting visit to his beloved University of Illinois law school even as he was battling late-stage cancer. From his hospital bed, Larry still advocated on behalf of young lawyers in his firm and the children of friends.

I had the privilege of knowing Larry through many lenses, from Aitz Hayam, to the Jewish Federation, to Response Center and Nachshon. His passion for Israel was second to none. On countless trips to Israel, Larry touched countless more people overseas. The Jewish community lost a giant. We all did.

He thought deeply about the world and religion and family and community. Conversations with Larry always sought the highest ground, and they always focused on making the world safer, making it better for the next generation.

One of Larry's greatest endeavors was his support for Response Center, which provides outreach, counseling and sexual health services to teens and their families. For those of us who knew Larry, this isn't a surprise: it's helping kids. In recognition of his peerless efforts, Response Center has created an endowment in his honor and—perhaps even more to Larry's liking—they renamed their annual teen music showcase in his memory. From this year forward, it will be "Tuned In: The Larry Dobkin Music Showcase."

Now, Larry will be responsible for helping support young people and their families. I can't think of anything he'd want more, and I know that somewhere Larry is bear-hugging everyone in sight, not because he's proud of a personal achievement, but because his mission continues.

Though we miss him with all our hearts, our lives are immeasurably better for having shared a lot of his life together. We have to dedicate ourselves to working tirelessly, every single day, working ourselves to exhaustion and beyond because there's a void that Larry left. As we continue to grieve, we continue to work. Larry never stopped and neither can we.

Larry, I miss you. We all miss you.

TRIBUTE TO DESMUND ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Desmond Adams

for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Desmund Adams is the epitome of an "American success story." Once a high school dropout and later a graduate of Drake University Law School, Desmond has gone on to live his life as an example of what is possible through hard work and dedication. In 2005, he started his own executive search firm, AdamsDouglas, and today is accountable for more than half of gross revenues for the company. Desmond resides in Clive, Iowa with his wife Dr. Shondalette Adams and their two sons, Khalil Desmond Adams and Solomon Douglas Adams. Desmond's selection as a Forty Under 40 honoree by Business Record reflects what is possible when Iowa work ethic intersects with leadership and character.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Desmond in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Adams for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Desmond on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF K9 VETERANS DAY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of K9 Veteran's Day. March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and many states across the country, including Pennsylvania, have officially recognized this date as K9 Veterans Day. For decades, military and police working dogs have served alongside our brave troops and law enforcement officers. They have sacrificed and lost their lives in the line of duty, and they deserve our respect and gratitude. It is important that we take a moment to remember those canines that have served diligently to protect lives.

HONORING SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shen Yun Performing Arts'

upcoming visit to the tri-state area and the company's significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in the Philadelphia area.

Reviving the essence of 5000 years of Chinese culture, Shen Yun is a world-class dance company that has performed in cities across the United States and abroad. The company's performers practice the Falun Dafa spiritual discipline and are hosted by local Falun Dafa Associations around the world. Founded in 2006, Shen Yun has graced many of the world's greatest stages in its short tenure, including Lincoln Center in New York City, The Kennedy Center in D.C., Royal Festival Hall in London, and Le Palais de Congrès in Paris.

Philadelphia has been blessed with a vibrant and active Chinese community, one that has been bettered through the contributions of Shen Yun. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Shen Yun and their upcoming trip to the Philadelphia area. I am thrilled that my community will be able to enjoy the beauty of this dance company in the upcoming months.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE CUNNINGHAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lawrence Cunningham for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Lawrence Cunningham is the Director of Business Development at Catchfire Media, where he is responsible for adding \$2 million a year in new business. Outside of his career, Mr. Cunningham is heavily involved with a number of young professional organizations across the state. Lawrence resides in Urbandale with his wife Brandy and their two-year-old son Asher. In both facets of his life, Lawrence is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lawrence in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Cunningham for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lawrence on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE STANDARD DATA ACT OF 2013

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, to introduce the Standard Data and Technology Advancement Act of 2013, or the "Standard DATA Act." This legislation follows legislation previously introduced and championed by former Congressman Geoff Davis during his time as the Committee on Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman.

The Standard DATA Act builds on the progress that has been made to establish consistent requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of key human services programs authorized by the Social Security Act.

Human services programs serve overlapping populations and should, from an information technology standpoint, operate consistently within and across programs. By continuing the process of data standardization and the use of common reporting mechanisms, this bill will help achieve three goals: better prevent and identify fraud and abuse; increase the efficiency of administrative resources to serve eligible beneficiaries; and produce program savings for U.S. taxpayers.

This bill continues the efforts begun in the bipartisan, bicameral Child and Family Services Extension and Enhancement Act of 2011, which was the first effort at requiring a human services program to implement standard data elements and reporting. President Obama signed that bill into law on September 30, 2011.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, signed by the President in February 2012, applied similar data standards provisions to unemployment insurance and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

This program-by-program approach has been useful, but the ultimate goal is to work across programs. The legislation being introduced today provides a path forward to cover additional programs under the jurisdiction of the Human Resources subcommittee, with the intention of moving to create a complete system of program information exchange.

As a member of the Human Resources subcommittee I commend these efforts and recognize the data provisions enacted in P.L. 112-96 are designed to be a catalyst for continued action.

Consistent with the bipartisan approach developed and maintained by former Subcommittee Chairman Geoff Davis and Ranking Member LLOYD DOGGETT, today I introduce this bill with the full support of the Human Resources Subcommittee, from both sides of the aisle.

Improved data standards will help increase the efficiency of data exchanges to use and reuse data within and across programs. That will allow States to automate the exchange of claimant data on work and benefit receipt, reducing delays and minimizing improper payments. It will also help to automate application forms by pre-populating them with reliable and verified data, which can reduce the manual burden on staff and allow them more time to engage beneficiaries, all while reducing error.

This efficiency will better serve program beneficiaries and taxpayers at the same time.

I thank my colleagues for co-sponsoring this important legislation, starting with Mr. DOGGETT, the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. REICHERT, Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, as well as Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Dr. BOSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois.

I invite all Members to join us in supporting this important legislation designed to improve the integrity of the benefit programs millions of Americans access today, and ensure that taxpayer funds are properly spent.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA AXIOTIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erica Axiotis for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Erica Axiotis resides in Des Moines, Iowa with her husband Christopher and is currently serving as the Director of Development for the Mercy Foundation, where she works with businesses interested in providing donations to assist the healthcare work done by Mercy Medical Center. Also a board member of the Junior League of Des Moines, the Iowa Shakespeare Experience, and Young Variety, Mrs. Axiotis' commitment and passion for assisting her community and beyond are outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erica in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Axiotis for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erica on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, last month marked 25 years since the people of the

Nagorno Karabakh region took a brave and bold first step in asserting their right to political freedom and national independence. Since the early 20th century the Nagorno Karabakh region and its people have been subject to the territorial squabbling and political gamesmanship of a number of foreign powers. In spite of this fact, the proud people of the Nagorno Karabakh have steadfastly asserted their desire for political autonomy, overwhelmingly approving a popular referendum declaring independence from Azerbaijan in 1991 and thereby affirming a distinct national identity driven by deep ethnic, cultural, and religious bonds. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic's steady advances in the industries of banking, agriculture, and telecommunications, provide further testament to their promise as a viable independent partner in the international community. Coupling this with the United States' longstanding and unambiguous role as a defender of free people's right to self-determination across the globe, I hope that my colleagues will join me in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh liberation movement as part of the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

OPPOSITION TO BUDGET SEQUESTRATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the midst of yet another manufactured crisis that threatens our economic recovery. Last Friday marked the beginning of \$85 billion in arbitrary, across-the-board cuts to key domestic priorities and defense programs.

How did we get here? The Budget Control Act of 2011 created an automatic sequestration plan that was designed to be so senseless and so painful that Democrats and Republicans would be left with no choice but to come together to craft an alternative. Yet, the sequestration that was never supposed to happen has begun.

The impact of these cuts will be real. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that sequestration will reduce GDP by .6% and cost about 750,000 jobs by the fourth quarter of this year. These alarming figures don't even take into account the impact cuts will have on federal protections and services for American families.

They include:

Reductions in FDA funding that will result in fewer scheduled food safety inspections and delays in new drug approvals.

Reductions in substance abuse and mental health programs that will result in nearly 400,000 adults and children with serious mental illnesses going without treatment.

Reductions in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), resulting in delayed or halted scientific and medical research. Reductions in funding for the Aids Drug Assistance Program, resulting in thousands fewer patients having access to HIV medications, and reductions in funding for Centers for Disease Control (CDC), resulting in over 400,000 fewer AIDS tests being conducted this year.

Reductions in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), resulting in cuts in public health and environmental protections, including reductions in safe drinking water and wastewater treatment projects, water quality permitting, air quality monitoring, and hazardous waste cleanups.

Nearly 4 million individuals receiving federally funded unemployment benefits will face an 11% cut in their weekly payments. The WIC nutrition program for low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children could be forced to turn away over 700,000 women and children by the end of the year and 100,000 families could lose their housing vouchers.

California will be particularly hard hit by the deep cuts to defense spending. Billions of dollars and an estimated 225,464 jobs related to aerospace and defense are at risk.

We have an obligation to put partisanship aside and make budget decisions that reflect the priorities of the American people. President Obama has offered to work with Congress on a comprehensive plan to reduce the debt, create a fairer tax system, and rebuild the middle class, all of which are necessary to strengthen the economy and maintain our ability to compete. Democrats have introduced legislation that takes such a balanced approach, and I urge the Republican leadership to allow it to come to the floor for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN BRENDemuEHL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jonathan Brendemuehl for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Originally from Illinois, Jonathan Brendemuehl is a Drake University alumnus who now resides in Des Moines home with his partner Christopher Diebel. Mr. Brendemuehl, 26, serves as the Marketing Events Coordinator for Bankers Trust Co. In this role, Jonathan manages Bankers Trust's involvement in more than 125 annual events. Outside of his career, Mr. Brendemuehl serves as president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association and is actively involved in the Des Moines Symphony and Des Moines Community Playhouse. Jonathan's passion for his career and his community sets an example that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jonathan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that

I recognize and applaud Mr. Brendemuehl for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jonathan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CLARENCE ATWELL, JR.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. COSTA, to pay tribute to the life of Clarence Atwell, Jr., who passed away on February 28, 2013 at the age of 67. Clarence served as Chief of the Tachi Yokut Tribe for 42 years. His leadership, guidance, and compassion will be greatly missed.

Born in the early morning hours under a lone tree on the Rice Ranch, Clarence Atwell would grow to lead an extraordinary life. Raised by his grandmother on the reservation, Clarence spoke his native language of Tachi. It was only when he started grade school that he learned English. During his adolescent years, Clarence developed a strong passion for caring for the tribal elders. He would spend days hunting for food, sometimes walking several miles to bring home rabbit, deer, and fish for the elders. His love of the land grew as he became a young man, and Clarence worked in the fields from sunup to well beyond sundown each day.

Strongly connected to his tribe, Chief Atwell was first elected Tribal Chairman in his early 20s and would go on to hold the position for over 40 years. The Tachi Yokut Tribe prospered under the powerful and wise Tribal Leadership of Chief Atwell. For many years, the members worked hard to achieve self-sufficiency by expanding Tachi Palace in Lemoore from a small gaming facility into one of the San Joaquin Valley's top destinations. Partially due to his efforts, tribal members now have access to secure housing, the elders receive lunch each day, and the members have dental and medical care.

Acknowledged by Kings County, California as an official Spiritual Leader, Chief Atwell was renowned for his spiritual guidance and performed countless life-changing ceremonies, including weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Chief Atwell was a Bear Clan Leader for California, one of the highest native spiritual honors afforded to individuals. The Bears were part of the official inauguration ceremony of then-California Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante where they performed in full regalia at the State's Capitol.

Chief Atwell advised many political leaders, having had the distinction of meeting Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton. Chief Atwell was known for his candor and forthrightness, though always in a quiet and polite manner. Tribes across the country could count on Chief Atwell for his political savvy, keen knowledge, and intense wisdom.

Clarence leaves behind his wife, Jeanette, and children: Kimberly, Cheryl, Curtis, Aubrey, and Rufus; as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. COSTA and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life and service of Clarence Atwell, Jr. His advice and leadership will be missed by many, but his spirit will surely live on in the Tachi Yokut Tribe.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICKELSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize John Mickelson for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

John Mickelson is the Associate Managing Director at the PrivateBank and Trust Co. and also serves as a City Councilman for the City of West Des Moines. He has previously started, owned, and operated three small businesses. John received three degrees from the University of Iowa, where he was also a letter-winner on the football team. Outside of work, John serves as Vice-Chair for the State Historical Society of Iowa and a Board Member for the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Mr. Mickelson resides in West Des Moines with his wife Brooke and their three sons. In both facets of his life, John is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like John in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Mickelson for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating John on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize this week as National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

The National Invasive Species Awareness Week is an opportunity to learn about invasive species in our communities and the risk they pose to our environments, economy, and na-

tive wildlife. These non-native plants, animals, and other microorganisms are costing our local communities, states, and the federal government millions of dollars each year. One species of concern for my district is Asian Carp.

If left unchecked, Asian Carp will destroy local ecosystems and potentially risk thousands of jobs in my home state of Minnesota. Since the 1970s, this environmental-invader has overwhelmed the Mississippi watershed. Asian Carp now threatens an estimated 10,000 lakes and 92,000 miles of rivers and streams in Minnesota. Jumping almost ten feet in the air, they pose a real hazard to boaters and fishermen. Our state is not alone in the devastating effects of this invasive species. Communities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, and Wisconsin have all been affected by Asian Carp.

Earlier this year, I re-introduced the Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act (H.R. 358) along with Congressman MIKE KELLY (R-PA). Effectively combatting this serious problem requires the federal government to be an equal partner, engaged with our states and local communities. Senators SHERROD BROWN (D-OH) and PAT TOOMEY (R-PA) have introduced an identical version—S. 125.

Our legislation will hold federal agencies accountable and improve their coordination with local authorities to slow the spread of Asian Carp. The bill would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lead a new multi-agency effort that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a coordinated strategy that supports on-going state and regional efforts as well as provide high-level technical assistance, best practices, and other resources.

Ongoing work by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Commission, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, non-governmental organizations, our Canadian partners, and regional efforts demonstrate a broad recognition of the scope of this threat. However, no federal strategy currently exists to protect the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries from this destructive, invasive species.

The Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act has the endorsement of several national wide organizations such as Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, National Parks Conservation Association, and B.A.S.S.

Last year, taxpayers paid an estimated \$100 million for the control of Asian Carp. We will continue to waste taxpayer dollars without a national strategy that targets our resources, invests in new solutions, and coordinates ongoing, effective efforts to slow the spread of Asian Carp.

TRIBUTE TO TINA GRAY
CARSTENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 05, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tina Gray Carstensen for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Tina Gray Carstensen is a lifelong Iowa native who grew up in Newton and received her Bachelor of Arts from Central College in Pella. Since 2002, Tina has been a marketing coordinator for Shive-Hattery Architecture and Engineering in West Des Moines, a full service design firm. In this role Tina has built the marketing team and hired and trained other marketing coordinators in the firm's offices across Iowa and Illinois. Her passion for helping others has led her to become extremely involved with community organizations, including providing graphic design services for various animal rescue groups and serving as Chair of the West Des Moines Leadership Academy Board. Tina resides in the Beaverdale neighborhood in Des Moines with her husband Jay, her stepson Finn and their two cats Mo and Hershey. Her proud parents, James and Sandra Gray, continue to reside in Newton.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Tina in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Carstensen for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Tina on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

ANNABELLE GLAZER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in light of Women's History Month, I would like to take this time to acknowledge an extremely special occasion: the 100th birthday of Mrs. Annabelle Glazer. Annabelle was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 6, 1913. Throughout her life, Annabelle has fulfilled the important roles of loving wife, dedicated mother, and valued community member. She worked as a book keeper until her retirement, upon which she diligently served her community through MANNA and Hadassah, volunteer organizations in Philadelphia.

Not only is it important to acknowledge the personal successes and triumphs of Annabelle on her birthday, but it is also fitting to reflect on the momentous occasions that she has witnessed in her lifetime, such as women achieving the right to vote. As we celebrate the accomplishments of Annabelle, let us commemorate all women throughout history who paved the way for progress.

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER STARR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Heather Starr for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify

a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Heather Starr is currently in the second year of her real estate career as a Real Estate Agent for RE/MAX Innovations. Prior to her current role, Heather owned her own communications firm, North Starr Communications, and was the director of development and communications for the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, tasked with raising nearly \$4 million to meet the capital campaign goal. Mrs. Starr is an Iowa native with degrees from Iowa State University and Drake University. She currently resides in rural Winterset with her husband Jason and their two sons, Drake and Brody. Heather has lived her life as an example of the famous Iowan work ethic and dedication to service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Heather in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Starr for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Heather on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.